

CONFIDENTIAL

70. (New) An isolated, immunogenic HAV peptide, said immunogenic peptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is substantially similar to a portion of an HAV protein selected from the group consisting of the VP3 protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 246 to about 491; the VP1 protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 492 to about 791; the P2A protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 792 to about 980; the P2B protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 981 to about 1087; the P2C protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 1088 to about 1422; the P3A protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 1423 to about 1496; the P3B protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 1423 to about 1496; the P3C protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 1520 to about 1738, wherein the immunogenic peptide binds to an antibody specifically immunoreactive with a peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 11-72 and conservative variations thereof.

71. (New) The immunogenic peptide of claim 70, wherein said immunogenic peptide binds to an antibody specifically immunoreactive with a peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 11-72 and conservative variations thereof.

72. (New) The immunogenic peptide of Claim 70 wherein the immunogenic peptide has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 11-72 and conservative variations thereof.

73. (New) The immunogenic peptide of Claim 70 wherein the immunogenic peptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 47.

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74. (New) A method of detecting the presence of antibodies against HAV in mammalian serum, said method comprising:

(a) contacting one or more isolated, immunogenic HAV peptides with antibodies from mammalian serum, wherein the immunogenic peptides comprise an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 1-72 and conservative variations thereof, and

(b) detecting the formation of complexes between the immunogenic peptides and the antibodies.

75. (New) The method of Claim 74, wherein the immunogenic peptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 47 and conservative variations thereof.